

METHOD AND SYSTEM OF DELIVERING ITEMS USING OVERLAPPING DELIVERY WINDOWS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A method and system for obtaining desired times from intended recipients
of items is provided. The method provides each recipient with a plurality of time
windows that overlap with one another in time from which the recipient may choose a
time for delivery of an item and receives choices made by recipients from the plurality of
overlapping windows. One aspect of the invention includes applying predetermined
10 parameters to the time windows to determine which time windows to offer to the
recipients as available times from which the recipient may choose a time for delivery.
Such parameters may include, among others, which time windows have associated with
them the least cost of service in making the delivery, whether the cost of delivering
within a time window is less than a monetary threshold, and whether a maximum number
15 of orders to be delivered within one time window has been reached.